

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
Robert De Leys  
Bart Vanderborght  
Eric Saman  
Hugo Van Heuverswyn

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

Atty. Dkt. No.: 11362.0025.DVUS03  
INNS025--3

Serial No.:


Filed: May 9, 2001

For: PROCESS FOR DETECTING HIV-3  
RETROVIRUS (Amended)

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

<p>CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL</p> <p>NUMBER <b>EL521279522US</b></p> <p>DATE OF DEPOSIT <b>May 9, 2001</b></p> <p>I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.</p> <p> Signature</p>
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Please amend this application as follows:

**IN THE ABSTRACT**

Please add the following abstract on a separate page:

--Described is a new variety of retrovirus designated HIV-3, also known as HIV-1 subtype O, samples of which are deposited in the European Collection of Animal Cell Cultures (ECACC) under V88060301. Further described is a process to detect the HIV-3 retrovirus in biological liquids or tissue. One such process involves contacting a biological sample suspected of containing HIV-3 nucleic acids with a DNA probe corresponding to a segment of genomic HIV-3 retrovirus RNA, such as the LTR region, and detecting the hybridization products thereof.--